Boston,

Dec. 9. 1869.

Dear Wendell G.

64 I am happy to be able to tell you that the box duly arrived; - that I opened it, yesterday, strictly according to directions on the cover; - and that the Statuette ~~it~~ now stands upon a pier-table in my father's parlour, Summâ cum laude! The packing was very good & the figures have come in excellent order. I admire the group greatly, & so does every one who has seen it. The warm hue of the material adds to the good effect. I do think the likeness is improved in the case of your father; and, although it is not as exact as might be wished, yet the expression of the face is so very true to his thought & character that we soon find ourselves thinking it quite an excellent likeness. We may

– all his friends, I mean – well
rest content with it, & say, there
is nothing to be desired.

And now what shall I
say, to express my thanks to your
brothers all for this most friendly
remembrance of me, and for this
beautiful gift? What I said, in
anticipation of it, I can only repeat; –
that I shall always prize it, as a
reminder of a work which absorbed my
thoughts & interests, as nothing earthly
ever can again, for more than twenty
years, – as a reminder of the
associates with whom I then acted, &
specially of your father, – and as
a reminder of the tardy but yet
most willing and most hearty justice,
which at length was rendered to his
labors & to his character by the best
men and women of the land. I
shall value it for all these, and
I shall equally value it as the

gift of the children of your father and Mother; and I shall regard it as a family treasure, and endeavor to preserve it unharmed, for Generations yet to come. I shall ask you to let your brothers know that I have received the group in safety, and that I send my thanks and respects to them each & all.

With sincere regard, I am
Your friend

Sam.l May Jr.